

Minds are like parachutes - they only function when open.

Anonymous

Ethical Leadership Group Exercises

Describe your “leadership compass.” What principles or ethics guide your personal life and your leadership?

Some of your community partners’ members want to sponsor an extremely controversial event (i.e., a lecture by a leader of a subversive group). By simply allowing your AmeriCorps name (Parent Organization) to be associated with this event you risk losing credibility and being accused of racism (or sexism or ageism, depending on the situation). How do you handle this? Does this controversial person have the same freedom of speech as, say, Mother Theresa?

You are the only AmeriCorps member in a meeting with all of the influential, prominent community partners and government staff. They are praising your ingenuity and creativity in a successful program you organized and are offering letters of recommendation, status and so on. The only problem is you didn't actually create the program - one of your volunteer recruits did. What do you do? Because the volunteer created the program for the group you lead, can you take credit? Is it OK to take credit if the person/group/organization will probably never find out?

You are concerned with the morale of your AmeriCorps team group and decide to talk with each member individually to see if you can find out what the problem is. You assure each person all responses will be strictly confidential. Through the interviews, you discover several members mentioning that Jim, your group treasurer, has been stealing money from the group's account for his own personal use and threatening anyone who suggests they might report him. How do you handle the situation and maintain your promise of confidentiality? What if you decide to report the problem to the authorities and they refuse to take action unless they have the names of the group members who are suspicious?